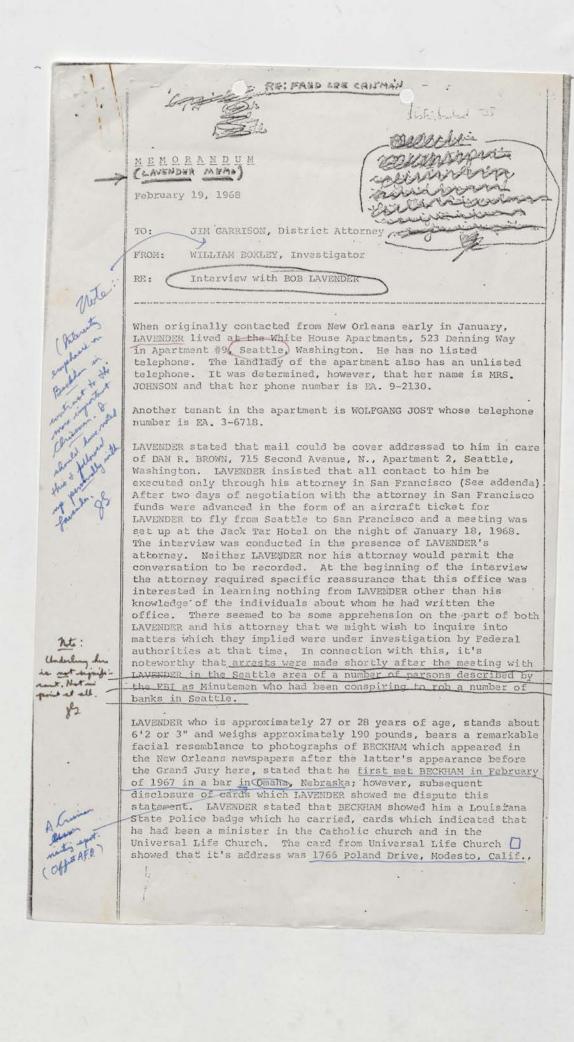
CRISMAN



and it was issued by the Rev. KIRBY J. HENSLEY. Both BECKHAM, according to LAVENDER, and LAVENDER, according to my observations, seem to have made something of a fetish of carrying cards and certificates of membership in various organizations. For example, LAVENDER said that BECKHAM obtained for him an honorary Attorney General's card from the State of Louisiana and he displayed a card signed by the Attorney General apparently, JACK P. F. GREMILLION and dated, however, May 13, 1964. This would indicate that had BECKHAM actually obtained that card for LAVENDER as he stated, LAVENDER would have had to know BECKHAM several years prior to his admitted meeting of the man in a bar in Omaha.

LAVENDER states that BECKHAM now has broken away from the Universal Life Church and started his own church organization which he calls Universal Life Churches of America, Inc. LAVENDER states that BECKHAM always appears to be without funds, that he files various corporation papers for sundry people and makes a living from the fees he charges therefor.

LAVENDER says that the time news of the Garrison investigation into the Warren Commission first broke in February 1967 BECKHAM told him that FERRIE was a pilot, a homosexual, he made fun of FERRIE and said that he had had nothing to do with the assassination but "You watch, he'll be dead in a couple of weeks." BECKHAM also told him, LAVENDER said, of the death of an Associated Press reporter who died in bed in Georgia or Alabama late in 1965 or early 1966, whom BECKHAM claimed was killed because of his inside knowledge of the assassination. However LAVENDER could not recall the name of the reporter.

LAVENDER said BECKHAM told him he had assisted in establishing a fund raising office with SERGIO ARCACHA and LOUIS RABEL in the NewOrleans area for anti-Castro activity.

LAVENDER describes FRED CRISMAN as 53 or 54 years of age, an intellectual, gray haired, "somewhat of SHAW's type", approximatel 5'9" to 10" in height, 175 to 180 pounds, wears glasses when reading, owns an expensive but limited wardrobe. He states that CRISMAN is an extreme right winger who continuously writes anti-Kennedy articles and essays apparently for publication in magazines. He states that when BECKHAM was subpoensed for Grand Jury testimony, CRISMAN called him (LAVENDER) and said that he would "kill BECKHAM if I am subpoensed as a result of anything he says — not that I know anything about the conspiracy, of course." LAVENDER quotes CRISMAN as having said that he made numerous trips from Olympia, Washington, to New Orleans and Dallas, that he made a number of trips with BECKHAM to the Receivell Hotel in New Orleans for meetings. He states that CRISMAN has described himself as being sadistic in sexual practice preferences.

LAVENDER states that he has seen CRISMAN on an average of once or twice a week during the year 1967 but knows of no particular aircraft journeys CRISMAN has made during that period of time.

> Cary straw. NO. 5.9. is office Itamid land - stained white always served of SMAN'S apartment.

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As a matter of fact he states that he has been almost except in the in the Olympia-Seattle area. Note the discrepancy in this comment and the claim in the anonymous letter from Orlando Florida, which states that FRED LEE CRISMAN of Tacoma, Washington flies to New Orleans steadily "twenty four times in 1957".

LAVENDER at first contended that CRISMAN's unlisted telephone of the orlando letter, when fitter being tested he was shown a copy of the Orlando letter, he stated it was true, that it had been MAin 7-4790 as stipulated in that letter but that within the past three weeks CRISMAN had changed the number and his new number was now MAin 7-6330.

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LAWENDER said that CRISMAN told him that ARCACHA SMITH and LOUIS hundred thousand dollars in cash from various fund raising enterprises and private backers. That they as a matter of safe keeping for the money had placed it in BECKHAM's hands in a suitcase and had sent him aloft flying around the country from one city to another as custodian of the money. He supposedly flew under the name of MIKE NELSON and stayed in touch with ARCACHA. Eventually, the story goes, ARCACHA and RABEL and their backers decided that the money would be used to assassinate President Kennedy. However, in order to throw the authorities off BECKEAM was instructed to land at the Miami airport in possession of some \$30,000 of the total amount, the rest being stored somewhere else and arrangements were made to have the FBI and the CIA arrest ARCACHA and RABEL and BECKHAM at the Miami airport and confiscate the \$30,000, the plan being, it was hoped, that the FBI and CIA would think that this was all of the money which ARCACHA and RABEL had been able to abscond with.

LAVENDER added that CRISMAN owns no automobile himself, that he drives friends' older model automobiles which he can borrow from time to time and that he has been ordained a bishop in the Universal Life Church from Modesto by the Rev. K. J. HENSLEY, President.

The high point of the entire three-hour interview and cross examination seemed to have been the story of BECKHAM being custodian for the four to five hundred thousand dollars of stolen funds and LAVENDER appeared to have to work himself up to telling the story towards the end of the interview. He seemed much relieved after he had told the story but throughout the interview he seemed to consult his attorney by expression, by facial expression, and f got the distinct feeling that LAVENDER was on stage reiterating a story which he had been encouraged to tell is.

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LAVENDER said that BECKHAM told him he had a private detective friend in Texas City. Later he said, according to LAVENDER, that he had met DAVID FERRIE one time through the efforts of a private detective named JACK MARTIN.

Shall Agriculture of the later of the strongly suggest this entire story as well as the receipt of the

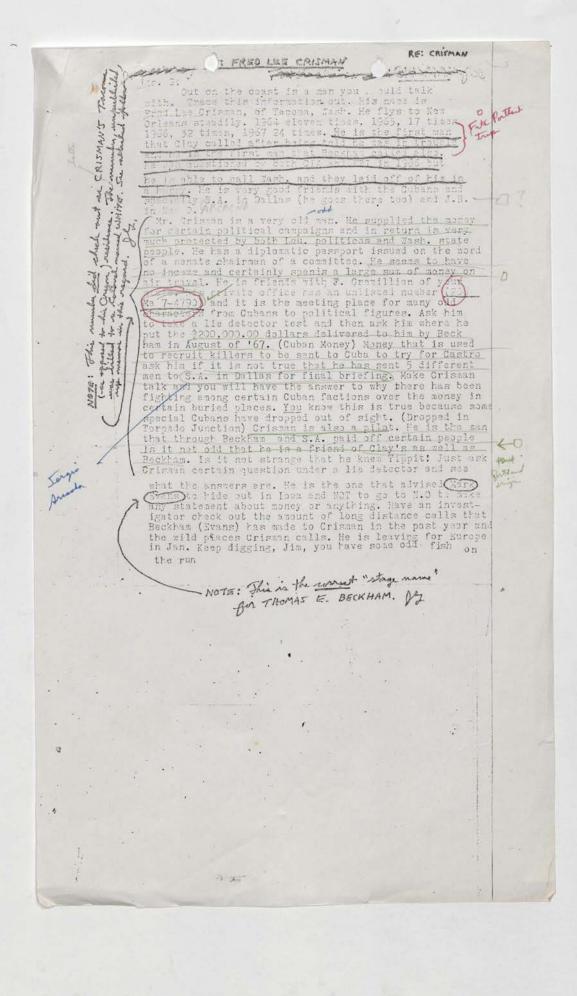
I strongly suggest this entire story as well as the receipt of the letters from Seattle and Orlando bear a distinct JACK MARTIN flavort's recommended that the facts contained therein be taken with a generous portion of salt. If for no other reason, than the fact

NOTE: An interesting gratuations observation by Boxley (Word - on reconstitut "forms" E.I.A. agent particularly mine my original CRISTALV file seems to loss deposited along with Boxley. Al that I havenever met anyone either in the CIA or among rightwing donors to political causes who would (A) entrust a large sum
of money to either BECKHAM or LAVENDER or others of their ilk, or
(B) permit such funds to be flown around the country in a suitcase
which might become misplaced or stolen at baggage terminals along
the airline routes. Some of the information about CRISMAN might be
checked through the American Express Company which is suine
CRISMAN, according to LAVENDER, for past due charges on a card which
he held from that concern.

of MARTIN GRASSI, LAVENDER stated that he is "A real crook" in the used car business in Seattle and that CRISMAN had introduced LAVENDER to GRASSI whom he understands is on the fringe in the Mafia. However, he was unable to offer any connection between BECKHAM and GRASSI and between GRASSI and the assassination.

5/23/68 from american Express Co. - No record-

Change And



R. FRED LEE CRIPMAN

PRIO LES CHISMAN
WILSTENT D. WHITE
92 No. Grant
Tacoma, Washington
WULIO GRASSI
Seattle, Washington

(JOURSE:
(TROOMS NEWS TRIBUNE (1968))
(MORE OF FS'S PROMISSINESS'
AND SEEMING IRRELEVANCE
TO REALITY)

D. State

Fred Lee Crisman came to my attention on or about 15 April 68.

As a reporter for the Tacoma News Tribune, I was covering the story of a new 080 Operation Headstart program designed for Gypsy children. The local 080 administrative branch, Opportunity Development, Inc. of Tacoma, referred me to a "Dr. Crissman" who had prepared an independent research study on Gypsies, on which the new program was based. I contacted Crissman and had an hour-long telephone interview which resulted in a front-page news article (Add. 1).

On 18 April 68, I received a call from Walter West, manager of the Tacoma Better Business Bureau. He informed me that I had best check his files on "Dr. Crissman" before basing more stories on his research studies. The same day, I visited the BBB and went through the files on Fred Lee Crisman, area Gypsies and the Universal Life Church. It was obvious from the information West had collected over a time that Crisman was involved in several shady deals and should be checked further.

On 19 April 68, I visited the Tacoma Police Dept. and informed Chief Charles Zittel of the situation. Since the TNT enjoys good relations with the FD, I was allowed to check the records of Crisman. With the exception of traffic offenses, the check turned up little information. I noted, however, that Crisman had file cards under the names Fred L. Cristman, F. Lee Crisman, and Fred Lee Crisman. The identification officer, Lt. Bob Major expressed an interest in the case and remembered the department had investigated Crisman earlier for a bunco scheme. He speculated that Crisman wanted to get the Gypsy program started, be appointed administrator, then steal the funds some way. This sounded like a practical scheme since Crisman is one of few non-Gypsies who can move freely among them and the eventual CEO program will amount to about \$500,000.

Lt. Major introduced me to a detective who had worked on the

CRISMANU LACK OF Tamaric - To THE POINT Baine ANIGNATA LAUSOLALA

Crisman case and the detective remembered that the investigation involved the Northwest Relief Society, a branch of the Universal Life Church Crisman had set up a second-hand store new to the church (a vacant theater) and was operating without license. Finally, local police forced him to shut down, but they had word he simply moved the operation to a city in Eastern Washington.

Acting on advice from the detective, I contacted a Mr. Wrenn at the State Attorney General's offine in Olympia. Wrenn remembered working on several cases involving Crisman and the NRS in small bunco operations. He said he had a file on Crisman and associates, including Julio Grassi, ex-Gov. Rosellini, and an Eastern entertainer, that was "six inches thick". He asked to call back after lunch and he would check it. I contacted him after lunch, but Wrenn stated the Crisman file had been "mislaid" and was nowhere in his files. He said it simply had disappeared. i.e. A former police officer from Tacoma who was a close associate of Grassi and Crisman was employed as an investigator for the AG's office at the time.

I then went to the TNT morgue and photocopied the Grassi file (Add 2). With this information, I went to Robert E. Lee, public affairs director for ODI, and suggested he leave Crisman out of the Gypsy program. He agreed, but wanted me to accompany him on a visit to Willer Stevens to explain why Crisman was being out.

On or about 22 April 68, we arrived at the store-front home of Stevens. As we pulled up, a Cadillac pulled in beside us and Fred Crisman entered the house with us. Thus, we were forced to talk to both Crisman and Stevens. We explained that some of Crisman's #2*xxx "friends" had "bad records" and it would perhaps be a good idea if he stayed in the background of the OEO program. Crisman then left for a few minutes and returned with a notebook. With documents in the notebook, he proceeded to prove to us his good character.

In the book, in plastic covers, were the following documents: A Top Secret Washington State Courier's ID card signed by Gov. Rosellini an ID card from Interpol; several ID cards from various semi-police agencies 1.e. Special Investigator, National Police Chiefs Asso., etc.; two letters from Gov. McWeithen of La. praising Crisman for his work on behalf of the State of Louisiana; transcripts and PhD diploma

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the Universal Life Church, and other documents. He brazzed that he did all the political writing for ex-Gov. Wallace and said he would write for anyone that met his price. We asked Crisman for proof of the purported survey he took of Gypsies nationwide and for proof of his educational background. On the Gypsies, he showed us a report from the U. of Washington, and said he had burned his notes. He claimed to have a BA and BS from Willamette U., MA from UW, PhD from Brantridge Forest and a DD from Athenaeum Ecumenical Divinity Institute, in Cheveland, Ohio. Actually, he has only a BA from Willamette (Add. 3).

In any case, Crisman agreed to remain out of the OEO project.

(To date, however, Stevens still is requesting that Crisman be appointed administrator).

Because I was interested in pursuing the Crisman matter, West at the BBB made several other inquiries about the man and came up with some interesting information. At the time of our meeting. I had asked Grisman if he knew anything about an organization called the servants of Awareness. I didn't tell him, but one of his ULC board members called West to report Crisman was heading the secret order. On 1 May 68, I received a letter at the TNT from Crisman, bearing no postmark or return address (Add. 4).

I kept in touch with the BBB regarding the man and his criminal affiliations, but gave little thought to the matter until 11 June 68. On that date, I was approached by the credit manager at the TNT and told a State Dept. investigator was here checking out Crisman and Grassi. I checked with the BBB and the man had been there also. He had given his name as E. Carl McNabb, of P.O. Box 648. Goleta, Calif., and said he came to Tacoma from Vancouver, Canada where he also had checked Crisman. The BBB gave him no information except the prepared report bn the ULC. Apparently he was satisfied and left, leaving word to send him any material we developed further on Crisman or Grassi. He also left behind several warnings about the pair (Add.5).

This occurred right after the Wheat incident in Oregon, and I
began to connect the California visitor with Crisman and his Louisiena
contacts. It seemed that he could fit into the New Orleans investigation
somewhere. I wrote to Steve Burton in L.A. who answered that he
wanted all information possible on the Universal Life Church.

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This indicated that I possibly was on the right track. I was joined in the Crisman investigation on or about 1 July 68 by George Rennar, our Seattle CCI man, and Harold Porter, with the Tacoma CCI. Rennar received word from Burton shortly thereafter that an arrest or subpoena may be made in our area and we concluded Crisman was the likely suspect. I went to the BBB and, without giving them a reason, was allowed to copy documents from Crisman's file. Rennar began . checking the World Wide Advertising, Inc. in Scattle) owned in part by Grassi. Little came from this outside of the fact they do a large business mational) on advertising specialities and are not considered ethical by other advertising companies. E. Williams, familer in this area for several years, heads the agency with Grassi in the background. Meanwhile, Rennar was unsuccessful in connecting Crisman with the Wallace Headquarters in Seattle. I discovered, however, that Crisman had authored a libelous tabloid newspaper that was distributed by Tacoma opponents of the council-mayor form of government (Add. 6). Tacoma is headed by a conservative mayor who wants to usurp the power of the city manager. Crisman had written the unsigned attack under the name of the Civic Improvement Alliance. It was believed to have been printed by Marshall Riconoscuito, a small time advertising man here who specializes in handling conservative political candidates, including Julio Grassi in two attempts. Miller Stevens confided to me that the next issue of the paper is to be an attack on Walter West of the BBB.

West has been a long-time target of Crisman. Although the two have met only once, West keeps his file on Crisman up-to-date and warns inquiring businessmen to stay away from him. Crisman has authored five libelous letters about West and sent them to different businessmen in the community, who usually give them to West. In the series of letters, Crisman has accused (with "documentary" evidence) West of being the "pinball king", a white slaver, the state's top Communist, and an ex-con and extortionist. All the charges are blatently false. In the most recent attack, distributed 14 Maxxiii July 68, Crisman accused West of being the leader of the Washington Minutemen. What is interesting is that somewhere, he got hold of Minuteman letterhead

AS SEXVALLY SADISTIC and displayed an t familiarity with the o ization's operation. The last letter, also, was turned over to West by a local banker who received it, and I obtained a copy (Add. 7). on the weekend of 13-14 July 68, I was visited by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Newcombe, of the L.A. CCI. They had visited several of the washington CCI people on their way to camp in Canada and stopped on their way back to spend the weekend with us and check out Crisman. They carried credentials from Steve Burton, We began by comparing notes and they said Burton had asked them to check out a rancher named White in Northern Oregon, he was described as a right-winger with a panchant for holding sadistic varties on his ranch) I recalled the name and located it or notes of an Oregon police report on Crisman. Crisman had been arrested in Ontario Ord) on 20 May 58 for being drunk and disorderly. He had pulled a gun on the arresting officer but got off with a \$100 fine. On 6 Nov. 67. he was again arrested for speeding through a stop sign and causing a accident. At that time he gave an address of Rt. 1, Box 226, Carlto or Turner, Ore He said the address belonged to a Kr. White, his 7 par Walland 7 stepfather. (Add. 8). Checking city directories, we found Crisman's Tacon, address (928 N. Grant) was (also occupied by Wilbert D. White and his wife Eva L. White's occupation was listed as Colonel, USA tatil 1968 When he was listed as retired. Crisman was listed as president of a car lot owned by Grassi, and president of a management research firm ((non-existent).) (Question ones: Now stuffed in "F.L. Charine"? 20 The Newcombes had checked out a Vancouver lead I had on the ULC but failed to turn up anything there. While here we checked the address given and found it to be an old theater. Crisman had used the theater and an adjacent store for his church and rummage sale. A gunshop now has the store and the theater still is vacant. The realtor who handled the property at the time called Crisman "a crook". He said the rent and it utilities never were paid and that collecters couldn't find Crisman. A check through the newspaper morgue and the city library failed to turn up any information on the ULC. Apparently the church never got a good start here. NOTE steady CRISMAN head. This c 974.

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RISULES OF CHECK CHECK BY FRED NEWCOMBE, 18 July 68.

(NEWCOMBE MEMO)

After researching Crisman and associates in Tacoma, Mr. and Mrs. Newcomba left for their home in Los Angeles. They planned to check out our Oregon leads on the way down.

On 18 July 68, after being assured by Mr. Alcock that Crisman was involved, I received a telephone call from the Newcombes who had reached the Klamath Falls home of Lawrence Haapanen (Lt. USAF) a member of the Washington CCI. Newcombe first had checked a Portland address (4610 ME. Eperson) listed as the Universal Life Church in Crisman's booklet (Add. 10). They found it to be the home address of Valter Dawes, listed in the booklet as a Trustee of the ULC. Dawes is listed in the Portland city directory as a painting contractor. While in Portland Newcombe checked the morgue at the Oregonian for references to the ULC. He found a story dated 3 April 68 which listed the permanent membership as around 50. The article also said Rev. Kirby Hensley had been accused of abetting draft dodgers by ordaining them as ministers in the ULC. Reportedly, -6,000 ministers have been appointed since 1962. Hensley is listed in Crisman's booklet as being National President of the ULC with headquarters in Mcdesto, Calif. The story, however, said Hensley was from Denver where he is running for President on the Universal Party ticket. He also ran for President in 1964 on the same ticket. A convention of the Universal Party reportedly was held in Denver 4 March 68.

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☐ In Salem, Newcombe attempted to get a picture of Crisman from ☐ his college yearbook at Willamette U., but found the library closed.

The previously mentioned White ranch was located by Newcombe in Carlton, Ore. Checking with the local postmaster, he found the place listed under the name F. L. Crisman. The local address is Meadowlake Road, and the phone number is 852-7453. Newcombe said the place is about 50 acres, has a large farmhouse, 3-4 barns and appears to be a working ranch.

In continuing investigations, Tacoma CCI is checking Crisman and White, Haapanen (Ore.) is checking a Gypsy there named Duke Ephraim, Perry Adams (Goleta CCI) is checking McNabb. #

E. L. White

PROBABLY

UNDER NAME OF WHITE !

Through certain discreet m sources, ye have been able to keep a constant check on the mail received at P.O. Box 722 (Universal Life Church) and 628 N. Gran, The checks began Monday, 15 July 68 and i will continue as needed. Mail to date has been: Two copies of The Flain Truth" addressed to Mrs. Eva White; The Newsweek Talking Newsletter, from P.O. Box 6146, Louisville, ky. addressed to E.L. White; two copies of an advertisement for "The Incredible Power of Kezuima" by Frank R. Young sent bulk rate from Englewood, N.J. to Mr. F. Lee.

At the ULC box, there was one letter from Griffin, Boyle &

Enslow, Tacoma attornies, addressed to Fred L. Crisman. 18 July 68, Crisman received at home a copy of Ramparts Ramparts (has subscription

REPORT FROM WHITE RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPTD, received by BBB

(NOTE: DATES HAE FOR WHONGH BACK TO THAT THEY MAY OUT APPLY TO "OUR" F.L. CRUMAN)

1939-Graduated Vale Union High School, Vale, Ore.

39-40-Attnd. Eastern Ore. College of Education.

40-47-Unaccountable, Crisman has no military record of service.

47-48-Again at EOCE at LeGrande, Ore.

48-51-At Willemette University. March '51, recommended for teaching. Recvd. BA 10 June 51.

52-53-Unaccountable. Claims he attended U of W, but no record.

53-55-Taught social sciences at Salem High School

56-57-Taught English at Elgen, Ore.

57-60-Taught at Buckley High School, Wash.

60-Fresent-Not clear. Crisman worked for a time at Boeing in Seattle.

He was fired from there, however, and is amable ever to return. The

records are not releasable. (Add. 9).

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